

MISCELLANEOUS.

On Pelamys Sarda, a British Fish. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c. MR. W. BEATTIE, Secretary of the Montrose Natural History and Antiquarian Society, has sent me the following description and a photograph of a specimen of *Pelamys Sarda*, which was captured in a bag (salmon-) net at the mouth of the North Esk, in June last (1859). There is no doubt of its being *Pelamys Sarda*, from the figure. Mr. Beattie observes that "the *Pelamys Sarda* figured by Yarrell as a vignette to his article on *Bonito* resembles the *Esk Scomber* very closely, except in the oblique bars, which in his figure are broad and transverse." I may observe that the specimen taken at the Esk is only 4 inches shorter than that described by M. Valenciennes as taken on the coast of Canary by Webb and Berthelot, and is larger than the ordinary size of the Mediterranean specimens, according to the observation of Sir John Richardson.

Pelamys Sarda.

Description of Specimen.—Length from the point of the nose to the centre of the tail, which is crescent-shaped, 21 inches; extreme, 22½ in. Girth, at thickest, 12 inches. Weight 4 lb. 6 oz. From the centre of the eye to the point of the nose 2¼ inches. From the centre of the eye to the origin of the branchial fin, 3¼ inches. Expanse of tail 4¾ inches. Space between pectoral and anal fins 8 in. From first dorsal fin to point of nose 5½ inches. Body round, tapering from the vent to the tail.

"A triangular space behind and above the gill-opening, and including the origin of the branchial fin, covered with projecting scales larger than those on other parts of the body. From the upper and anterior angle of this space, several rows of prominent scales extend backward along each side of the front dorsal, and converge toward the second dorsal fin. Lateral line waved till opposite the termination of the anal fin, when it runs in a straight line to the tail.

D. $2\frac{2}{3}$ VIII. or IX.

"Origin of dorsal fin behind origin of pectoral. Ten dark bars run obliquely forward from the back at an angle of 30°.

"Upper jaw and teeth project over the lower jaw. Teeth conical, curved inwards, those in the lower jaw larger. Front teeth in upper jaw short. Two teeth in front of each lower jaw bent backwards; these, with the larger ones on the side, measure $\frac{1}{6}$ inch in length. On the sides of the lower jaw the long teeth alternate with smaller ones.—Wm. B."

Occurrence of the Rufous Sedge Warbler in South Devon.

A second specimen of the Rufous Sedge Warbler (*Aedon galactotes*) has been killed near Start Point, South Devonshire, on the 25th of September last. It was shot by William D. Llewellyn, Esq., by whom it was presented to the British Museum. That gentleman observed that its flight much resembled that of a Lark, and that it was exceedingly thin. Its visit was probably occasioned by the strong southerly wind which had prevailed for several days. The

former specimen of this rare bird, which Mr. Yarrell figured in his second Supplement to the 'History of British Birds,' was obtained on the downs near Brighton, in the autumn of 1854.—G. R. G.

On the New British Snake *. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Mr. Bond has presented to the British Museum a fine large specimen of *Coronella austriaca*, which he took when searching for *Lacerta Stirpium* at St. Leonard's, near Ringwood, in the New Forest, in the year 1854. He always considered it as distinct; but several of his friends regarded it as only a variety of the young collared snake, *Tropidonotus Natrix*.

On a new species of Catharus. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., F.L.S.

CATHARUS OCCIDENTALIS.

Cinnamomeo-brunneus, vertice saturatiore: subtus cineraceus, gula albicante, cervice et pectore fusco subobsolete flummulatis: ventre medio et crisso albis: rostro fusco-nigricante, hujus basi et pedibus pallide corylinis.

Long. tota 6·5, alæ 3·5, caudæ 2·9, tarsi 1·15.

Hab. Western Mexico, Oaxaca, Totontepec (*Boucard*).

M. Sallé's recent collections from M. Boucard contain four examples of this *Catharus*. It seems clearly distinct from *C. Melpomene* of Eastern Mexico, in its rather larger size, shorter tarsi, and spotted neck and breast; these parts in *C. Melpomene* being immaculate.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* June 28, 1859.

Prize Questions.

The following questions have been submitted to competition by the Utrecht Society of Arts and Sciences:—

1. Inquiries into the development of one or more species of the Mollusca, Annelides, or Crustacea, an account of which has not yet been written, with figures illustrative of the text.

2. A series of researches on the heat generated by plants

A gold medal of the value of 30 ducats (£13 st.), or an equivalent in silver, will be awarded to each successful competitor. The answers to the first question must be sent in (post free) previous to the 30th of Nov. 1860—to the second, before the 30th of Nov. 1861; addressed to Dr. J. W. GUNNING, the Secretary of the Society at Utrecht. The author is at liberty to avail himself either of the Dutch, German (in Roman characters), English, French, or Latin language; but the answers must not be in his own hand-writing. They are to be accompanied by a sealed envelope, enclosing his name, and, if a member of the Society, having the letter "L" on the address. The successful answers will be published in the Society's works.

Further information may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Society.

* The reader is requested to make the following correction in the former notice: p. 317, line 3 from the bottom, for smooth sides read smooth scales.—Ed.